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Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

6956th meeting
Monday, 29 April 2013, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Gasana	(Rwanda)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Stancanelli
	Australia	Ms. King
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mehdiyev
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Briens
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	Luxembourg	Mr. Maes
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Masood Khan
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Kim Sook
	Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
	Togo	Mr. M'Beou
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Ms. Rice

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2013/225)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2013/225)

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Sudan to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedures, I invite Mr. Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2013/225, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

I now give the floor to Mr. Ladsous.

Mr. Ladsous (*spoke in French*): I thank you, Sir, for this opportunity to update the Council on the situation in Darfur. Council members have before them the report of the Secretary-General (S/2013/225) on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), dated 10 April 2013. I would like to focus on the most recent developments in the peace process and in the security and humanitarian situations.

With respect to the political situation, during the days leading up to the donor conference held in Doha on 7 and 8 April, several hundred displaced people held peaceful protests in the Kalma and Hassa Hissa camps, in Southern and Central Darfur, respectively. The protesters raised the issues of insecurity, unresolved land disputes and the predominance of armed militias as reasons for their opposition to the Doha conference. No arrests were reported.

At the conference, most participants expressed strong political support for the Darfur Development Strategy, which is the framework serving as the basis for economic reconstruction, development and poverty eradication. The total amount pledged for implementing the Strategy was $3.7 billion, including $2.65 billion previously committed by the Government of the Sudan and $500 million from Qatar. We must take note of the fact that the total amount fell short of the target of $7.2 billion set by the Development Strategy for the next six years.

Concerning the adoption of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur by the faction of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) led by Mohamed Bashar, hostilities broke out between that group and JEM forces loyal to Gibril Ibrahim, near Darma, 220 kilometres north-east of El Geneina in Northern Darfur, on 18 April. Two soldiers from Mohamed Bashar's forces were killed and nine were wounded in the clashes. UNAMID is currently investigating the exact cause of the clashes. In addition, the Mission has called on the factions to stop the hostilities and to resolve their differences through dialogue.

On April 24, the Liberation and Justice Movement informed the authorities of its intention to immediately withdraw from the Government. The reasons cited by the Movement for that decision were the delays in the implementation of the Doha Document and the expulsion from the Sudan of members of the International Republican Institute by the authorities earlier that day. The Institute, which is an international non-governmental organization, was involved in capacity-building for the Movement and provided technical assistance to support the transformation of the Movement into a political party. The high-level negotiations between representatives of the National Congress Party and the Liberation and Justice Movement with regard to the ongoing participation of the Movement in the Government are underway.

With regard to the security situation, the escalation of the conflict in Darfur due to military confrontations and intercommunal clashes is the source of serious concern. Humanitarian agencies estimate that this year the clashes have resulted in the displacement of 214,000 people, including 24,000 to Chad. That is much more than the total for last year.

Following the military hostilities described in the report of the Secretary-General, the Government and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA)-Minni Minawi clashed on several occasions this month in Eastern and Southern Darfur. On 6 April, SLA forces seized control of Labado and Muhajeria in Eastern Darfur. The next day, they took control of Ishma village, 30 kilometres

east of Nyala in Southern Darfur. Following those clashes, about 33,000 people are still concentrated around the UNAMID bases in Muhajeria and Labado.

Between 6 and 13 April, Sudanese military aircraft conducted intermittent offensive operations in and around those two villages. On 16 April, the Government army, supported by air operations, regained control Muhajeria and Labado. UNAMID is currently reviewing reports of casualties resulting from the fighting, which, it should be noted, diverge widely.

The authorities have prevented the Mission and humanitarian actors from providing the necessary assistance and supplies to the area while the villages were under the control of SLA-Minni Minawi. UNAMID finally gained access to provide reinforcements and provisions to the bases on 18 and 19 April. On those dates, humanitarian actors were able to begin preparing to provide the necessary assistance, which was provided on April 23. At the same time, sporadic clashes between the Government and SLA-Minni Minawi elements continued in Southern Darfur, for example in Marla to the south-east of Nyala, and, on April 22, near the Nyala airport.

(*spoke in English*)

Three days after Government forces regained control of Muhajeria, unidentified armed assailants attacked the nearby UNAMID base. The assault took place in the early hours of 19 April and lasted for 40 minutes. Tragically, one UNAMID peacekeeper was killed and two were injured in the exchange of fire. At least one of the attackers was also killed. The base was reinforced with a company of peacekeepers from Nyala later the same day.

I would like to take this opportunity to condemn unreservedly those responsible for that deeply troubling incident. I express my deepest condolences to the family and colleagues of the fallen peacekeeper, as well as to the Government of Nigeria. I call on the Government of the Sudan to swiftly bring those responsible to justice.

Intercommunal violence in Darfur involving well-armed militias has also caused significant suffering among the civilian population. On 3 April, an attempted armed robbery triggered clashes between militias drawn mainly from the Misseriya and Salamat tribes in Um Dukhun, in Central Darfur. Sporadic fighting between the groups continued and spread eastwards, between 6 and 17 April, to Rehed al Bardi, 245 kilometres south-west of Nyala, and northwards to Darlay, 130 kilometres south of Zalingei, in Central Darfur.

Community sources estimate that upwards of 68 people were killed and 60 injured in the clashes. Officials from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Chad registered the arrival of 16,000 people displaced by those precise hostilities. Government security forces prevented UNAMID from accessing the affected area until 17 April, when a patrol reached Um Dukhun and observed that several surrounding villages had been abandoned and damaged by fire.

The authorities deployed security forces to defuse tensions and formed a committee comprising State Government officials and traditional community leaders to mediate between the parties. Those efforts led to the signing on 10 April of an agreement to cease hostilities. However, intermittent fighting continued after the signing and now a second reconciliation conference is scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday.

Further to the heavy intercommunal fighting between the Aballa and Beni Hussein militias described in the report before the Council, a reconciliation conference scheduled for 15 April was postponed by the authorities for one month to allow the parties more time to prepare. UNAMID is supporting the process through workshops on conflict resolution and the provision of logistical assistance. An isolated clash between the communities near Um Dafog, which is north of El Geneina in Western Darfur, allegedly in response to the harassment of Beni Hussein farmers by Aballa herders, highlighted that relations between the communities remain tense.

Against that backdrop of insecurity, the Government replaced, through presidential decree, the incumbent governors of Southern and Eastern Darfur with retired Sudanese Armed Forces Lieutenant General Adam Mahmoud Jar al-Nabi and Mr. Abdul Hamid Musa Kasha, respectively. While the outgoing Governor of Eastern Darfur was said to be in poor health, no explanation was provided for the decision to replace the Governor of Southern Darfur.

Movement restrictions and other obstructions imposed by the belligerent parties have continued to hamper UNAMID operations. On 2 and 6 April, Government security forces forcibly prevented UNAMID helicopters from departing from Shangil Tobaya and Saraf Umra after the crews refused to

transport local officials who did not appear on the flight manifest. Eventually, the flights did depart without the officials on board, but not without several hours of negotiations.

On 3 April, the authorities issued 401 new entry visas for UNAMID civilian police, but as of 25 April, a total of 858 visas remained outstanding, including 533 for civilian police. In an effort to address those and other issues impeding UNAMID operations, the tripartite coordination mechanism between the African Union, the United Nations and the Government of the Sudan met in Addis Ababa on 15 April. The Government representatives present urged UNAMID to coordinate more closely with security officials in Darfur to improve access. In addition, participants agreed to review the validity of outstanding visa requests submitted in 2011 and 2012.

In closing, the situation in Darfur is very troubling. While there have indeed been mildly encouraging developments in the peace process, in the meantime a fully inclusive political settlement has yet to be reached. UNAMID is working hard to implement its mandate in these circumstances, which remain very challenging. It is clear that better cooperation on the part of the Sudanese authorities and improvements in troop and police contingent equipment levels are needed to enable the mission to operate more closely to its full potential.

Furthermore, resolving the conflict continues to require a combined effort on the part of the Council, the African Union and the wider international community to persuade the belligerent parties that there is no military solution to the crisis. In that connection, it is clear that maintaining attention to the situation in Darfur amid a series of newer crises remains as important as ever.

For too long, the people of Darfur have known conflict and suffering. I urge the Council to do all that it can to help relieve their suffering and bring about an end to the fighting by supporting UNAMID and by applying additional pressure on the belligerent parties to reach a negotiated settlement.

The President: I thank Mr. Ladsous for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Osman (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like at the outset to congratulate you, Sir, on assuming the presidency of the Council this month. Rwanda is a friendly country that has made valuable contributions to peace in Darfur through its participation in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

I would also like to thank Mr. Ladsous for his briefing and explanations concerning the situation in Darfur.

I note that Mr. Ladsous' briefing emphasized that instances of instability were caused by recent outbreaks of tribal conflict. Council members may be aware that a few clashes over natural resources took place in the region in March, leading to the displacement of some citizens. However, the situation was contained. A few days after those incidents, a reconciliation meeting took place between the tribes involved, as did a follow-up conference to resolve problems relating to internally displaced persons.

Mr. Ladsous also mentioned that some clashes took place between the Government and rebel groups, mainly as a result of the continued attacks carried out by the Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minawi. Only yesterday, Government forces succeeded in taking control of the headquarters and main base from which those forces sought to take over Nyala and other areas, and cut off trade routes.

Two weeks ago, El Tigani Seisi, Chairperson of the Darfur Regional Authority, visited New York and met with the Secretary-General and many members of the Council. He described the positive developments that have taken place in Darfur since the Darfur Regional Authority assumed authority and began establishing its institutions and mechanisms. At those meetings, he also discussed the arrangements being made for the donors conference for Darfur that subsequently take place in Doha. It was a successful meeting, in which all members of the Council took part. We expect that the pledges made there will help in the reconstruction and development of Darfur.

It is very important to note that, now that most of their activities have been contained by the Sudanese army, the various rebel groups in Darfur are targeting civilian areas and cities outside of Darfur. Only two days ago, they participated in an attack on the city of Umm Rawaba, which is outside the Darfur region. Alongside the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)-North, they attacked strategic facilities, electric power stations and fuel depots, and robbed markets and banks before fleeing. This confirms that the remnants of the rebel groups in Darfur are nothing

more than bandits and outlaws without a cause, having refused to participate in the peace process. They are led by warlords who have made it clear that they are willing to target innocent civilians, rob them of their property, and intimidate and terrify peaceful communities, even in areas outside Darfur. We must take these facts into account when considering the situation in Darfur.

The attack launched against UNAMID forces some time ago further highlighted the shortcomings in UNAMID's work and performance. When faced with attack, they surrender their weapons and even their vehicles quite readily to the rebel forces. This matter requires careful consideration. Whenever UNAMID or a group of civilians have been attacked or taken hostage, we in the Government of the Sudan have made every effort to locate and prosecute the perpetrators. However, we hope that UNAMID officials will also carry out their duties by dealing with any attack on them by such rebel groups.

The report of the Secretary-General (S/2013/225) also underscores notable progress in the situation in Darfur, in particular with regard to implementing the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. The report reaffirms that the Government of the Sudan has completed the transfer of funds to the Darfur Regional Authority despite the economic difficulties that the country has recently faced. The last step was the transfer of $165 million, as set out in paragraph 3 of the report before the Council.

The Council has also noted the donor conference on Darfur, at which $3.6 billion was pledged by participants, including $2 billion by the Government of the Sudan. That augurs well for the implementation of the strategy already drawn up by the Darfur Joint Assessment Mission, comprising the Government of the Sudan, UNAMID and international partners. In that connection, I must express my deep gratitude to all members. The plan sets out a time-bound and detailed framework for the reconstruction and development of Darfur. It will take six years to complete. The beginning has been very promising. We hope that we will all cooperate in implementing the strategy.

With regard to the justice and accountability provisions of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, the report of the Secretary-General notes in paragraph 5 that the Special Prosecutor for Darfur has continued his investigation of violations of human rights and international law and that on 24 February, the El Fasher court sentenced six soldiers accused of killing a community leader in Abu Zereiga to death. There are now several cases being considered by the Special Prosecutor, including attacks by militia on internally displaced persons camps in the area of Kutum. That proves to us all that there is justice against all those found guilty.

In other paragraphs, the report notes that there have been constraints on UNAMID. I would like to explain that, as we said earlier, in a very few instances, the Government prefers that UNAMID does not enter areas where it might face real threats. On several occasions, the Council has noted cases and, as Mr. Ladsous mentioned, several members of UNAMID have been attacked. Regrettably, in that connection, I would however like to say, for the benefit of us all, that, when members of UNAMID face an attack by elements of rebel groups, they react passively, if not by actually fleeing from the scene of the attack, leaving behind their weapons, and sometimes even their vehicles, for the rebel groups.

As I said a month ago, such an incident took place when they were escorting a number of civilians to participate in a conference on internally displaced persons and faced such an attack. They handed over all the civilians to rebel groups. They even handed over a vehicle. I do not know if they also surrendered some of their weapons. Mr. Ladsous well knows the details. I mention that incident merely to clarify that the Government sometimes does not recommend that UNAMID move into certain areas owing to the danger there. What further complicates matters is that UNAMID deploys and does not defend itself when faced with such an attack.

With regard to visas, owing to the concern of the Government of the Sudan, I met with Mr. Ladsous on 7 April, a few days ago. I underscored to him that a senior committee has been established to review the visa issue and to expedite their issue. It was set up under the personal direction of the President. On 13 March, the committee met representatives of UNAMID. A total of 644 visas were requested. At the meeting, the Government authorities issued 412 visas. That leaves approximately 200 visa applications still being considered. Such information proves that there is constructive cooperation between the Government and UNAMID on the visa issue. In other words, there are no obstacles to the consideration of issuing visas.

At the beginning of my statement, I mentioned the despicable attack on Umm Rawaba, a city in Northern Kordofan State. In other words, it is outside Darfur. It was attacked on the morning of Saturday 27 April. The perpetrators were the SPLM-North, supported by other rebel groups. They had 100 armoured vehicles with them. They destroyed and looted the city, where there were no members of the Sudanese army. There were only police officers who were protecting places in the city such as markets, fuel depots, power plants and water points. All that infrastructure was destroyed by the SPLM-North, supported by the forces of Abdul Wahid and Minni Minawi.

I leave it to Council members' wisdom to uncover the reasons why Minni Minawi and Abdul Wahid act in that manner. They have become true warlords. They have robbed eight banks and pillaged all the markets and shops in that city. They have destroyed the water plant and the electric power station. Are those people really interested in development and reconstruction in the Sudan even as they go about intimidating and killing civilians? They killed 35 unarmed civilian community leaders in the city of Abu Kershola. That is the kind of people Minni Minawi, Abdul Wahid and the SPLM-North forces really are.

Compared to the events of 2003, the remaining conflict in Darfur is based on the narrowest of rationales. We hope that the Council will help us to end the conflict by enforcing sanctions against the groups that reject peace because, when faced with constraints imposed by the army, those groups have turned to attacking other areas and killing civilians. I hope that when Council members move to the consultation room to discuss this matter, they will focus strongly on upholding standards by enforcing sanctions against movements that reject peace, or by whatever other means they deem advisable.

The President: There are no more speakers inscribed on my list. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.